

Cabinet Addendum Sheet

21st April 2022



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Classification: Public

ITEM 8 - SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Additional Recommendation 3:

That Cabinet approve the opening of a specialist Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Designated Unit for pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to be located within the rebuilt Harlington School to open in September 2023, following a formal consultation which ended 11th March 2022.

Supporting information

As referenced in the Cabinet report in Table 1 on page 172 and Table 4 on Page 175, Hillingdon Council proposed to open a specialist Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Designated Unit for pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to be located within the rebuilt Harlington School to open in September 2023. This had been discussed in detail with the school and agreed by the Governors.

The Unit has been subject to informal discussion for some years. The school itself is being completely rebuilt during 2022-23, on its current site, managed and mainly funded by the Department for Education (DfE) working closely with the school and the Council. The existing building will be demolished. Within the new building, the Council is also funding an expansion by 45 places a year to eight form entry and also this new Unit for pupils with ASD, which has been carefully designed with expert input to have the rooms and facilities to meet pupil needs. The new building will open to pupils in September 2023. The new Unit includes specialist classrooms, ICT and therapy spaces, with shared external spaces alongside other provision for children with additional needs. Within the Unit and their mainstream experience, the school can support learners to develop strategies to successfully manage their social, communication and sensory needs.

There will be 15 places for pupils with ASD; approximately three in each year group. The students within the provision will predominantly access teaching sessions in the Unit. with some supported mainstream class provision following individualised programme to meet their needs outlined in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Each session within the unit will be taught by a Specialist Teacher or a Trained Learning Support Assistant. These groups will have a high level of staff to pupil ratio.

The formal consultation on the Unit began on the 9th February 2022 and concluded on the 11th March 2022. This included a Public Notice in the Uxbridge Gazette, the consultation being shared with the school and families, as well as being available on the Hillingdon Council website.

There has been no response to the consultation on the proposal and considering this, Cabinet approval is now sought to formally approve the proposed Unit, as per part 5 statutory process: prescribed alterations, [Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools](#). As Harlington School is a Foundation School the local authority is both the proposer and the decision maker on this matter.

Alternative options considered

None.